

Serial No.: 09/783,958
Atty. Docket No.: P64425US2

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed August 11, 2003, has been carefully reviewed and Applicants note with appreciation the identification of allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 34 and 59, amended claims 33, 55, 56, and 58, and added claims 62-65. Claims 33, 35-44, 46-50, 55-58 and 60-65 are pending in the application.

Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the Examiner rejected claims 33, 35, 36, 39, 40, 42, 43, 58 and 61 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,235,433 to Amano in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,734,778 to Huf et al. ("Huf"), rejected claims 37, 41 and 44 as being unpatentable over Amano in view of Huf and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,789,108 to Chu, rejected claim 38 as being unpatentable over Amano in view of Huf and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,690,702 to Skotheim, and rejected claims 50 and 55 as being unpatentable over Amano in view of Huf and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,010,405 to West. The Examiner objected to claims 34, 46-49, 56, 57, 59 and 60 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that claims 34, 46-49, 56, 57, 59 and 60 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the underlying claim(s).

As set forth herein and in accordance with the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter, claims 33 and 58 have been amended to include the subject matter of claims 34 and 59, now canceled, respectively. Claim 55 has also been amended to substantially include claim 56, some subject matter being omitted as not necessary to patentability. New claim 62 represents claim 46 rewritten in independent form to include original claim 33, claim 63 represents claim 57 rewritten in independent form to include original claim 55, and claim 65 represents claim 60

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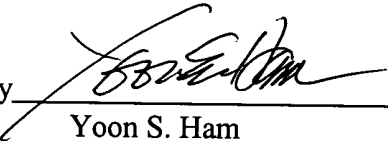
rewritten in independent form to include original claim 58. Claim 64 corresponds with claim 48 and is presented as a dependent claim in view of its scope relative to claim 63. With these amendments, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims, including the newly added claims, are in condition for allowance as being in accordance with the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter. Favorable consideration and allowance of the application is requested.

No new issues being raised herein and the foregoing Amendment placing the application into condition for allowance, entry of the Amendment is proper and respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the present application can receive an early Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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